

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
July 18, 2016

2 Samuel 1:1–2:32. David’s lamenting and anointing.

1 Peter 3:1–7. Beautiful wifely submission to her husband/lord.

Psalms 133:1–134:3. This is God’s universe, not ours.

COMMENTS:

2 Samuel 1:1–2:32. In this **first chapter**, we see David’s lament over Saul’s death. It is important to understand that God gave the throne to David; David did not steal the kingdom from Saul. David proved this by dealing swiftly with Saul’s alleged killer and publicly lamenting his personal loss of Saul and Jonathan. An Amalekite came to David at Ziklag and related how he had killed Saul on Mount Gilboa (**1:1–12**). Most likely the Amalekite was fabricating his story in order to receive a reward. The Amalekite was greeted with David’s strongest rebuke. David, who had more cause than anyone to kill the king, had refused to raise his hand against the Lord’s anointed. But this pagan slave did not respect the Lord’s anointed. David’s men executed the Amalekite for his alleged deed (**1:13–16**). David lamented the deaths of Saul and Jonathan (**1:17–27**). His sorrowful refrain “How the mighty have fallen!” (1:19, 25, 27) expressed tribute to these great men whom David loved and missed. Note how oriented David was to God’s plan, instead of feeding off of any feelings of vengeance against Saul for unjustly persecuting him. David had the integrity (right thinking/wishing/feelings) to overcome temptations to take injustice so personally. This requires a great deal of integrity in thinking and seeking the good. As I mentioned in last evening’s Bible class, our studies of human free will as an emergent property from the interplay between the intellect and the will overwhelmingly reveals that we are all naturally geared to what we think is our good than we are to logic and rationality. For the most part, we just use logic to justify whatever good we are seeking. Also, as I noted, this is good news and bad news. It is good news if we seek the true good of God Himself, but it is horrible when we choose our “good” that is not really a good according to God. We all know too well how we love to *rationalize* actions that we see as good but really are not good at all. The very act of *rationalization* just demonstrates that we are all driven by our loves for our perceived goods. The only question is the nature of those “goods.” In sum, our affections (for things of the world, 1 John 2:15-16) have a powerful way of blinding us to the true, good, and beautiful of the plan of God and the Word of God. In the **second chapter** David is anointed at Hebron. Notice his continued focus on the Lord and dependence on the LORD by inquiring what he should do about Saul’s kingdom. The Lord instructed David to go to Hebron. There the elders of Judah anointed him King (**2:1–4**). His first act as king was the gracious commendation of the men of Jabesh Gilead who had bravely rescued the body of Saul. David was a man with a shepherd’s heart who cared about his people, and one of his first concerns was the fate of Saul and the three sons who died with him. David was a man of dignity because he was a man after God’s own heart. David had a robust relationship with God *by knowledge and by love*.

1 Peter 3:1–7. It is my guess that this section is probably the least favorite of many wives, even *Christian* wives. Many modern Christian wives find it beneath their dignity to submit to their husbands, let alone respect them as their earthly lords. However, twice in this paragraph Peter reminded Christian wives that they were to be submissive to their husbands (1 Peter 3:1, 5). The word translated “subjection” is a military term that means “to place under rank.” God has a place for everything; He has ordained various levels of authority (1 Peter 2:13–14). He has ordained that the husband be the head of the home (Eph. 5:21ff) and that, as he submits to Christ, his wife should submit to him. Headship is not dictatorship, but the loving exercise of divine authority under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Peter gave three reasons why a Christian wife should submit to her husband, even if the husband (as in this case) is not saved. (1) *Submission is an obligation (3:1)*. God has commanded it because, in His wisdom, He knows that this is the best arrangement for a happy, fulfilling marriage. Subjection does not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband. In fact, in 1 Peter 3:7, Peter made it clear that the husband and wife are “heirs together.” The man and woman are made by the same Creator out of the same basic material, and both are made in God’s image. God gave dominion to both Adam and Eve (Gen. 1:28), and in Jesus Christ Christian mates are one (Gal. 3:28). Submission has to do with order and authority, not evaluation. For example, the slaves in the average Roman household were superior in many ways to their masters, but they still had to be under authority. The buck private in the army may be a better person than the five-star general, but he is still a buck private. Even Christ Himself became a servant and submitted to God’s will. There is nothing degrading about submitting to authority or accepting God’s order. If anything, it is the first step toward fulfillment. And Ephesians 5:21 makes it clear that both husband and wife must first be submitted to Jesus Christ. Husbands and wives must be partners, not competitors. (2) *Submission is an opportunity (3:1–2)*. An opportunity for what? To win an unsaved husband to Christ. God not only commands submission, but He uses it as a powerful spiritual influence in a home. An unsaved husband will not be converted by preaching or nagging in the home. The phrase “without the word” does not mean “without the Word of God,” because salvation comes through the Word (John 5:24). It means “without talk, without a lot of speaking.” Christian wives who preach at their husbands only drive them farther from the Lord. It is the virtue of the wife that will win the lost husband—not arguments, but such attitudes as submission, understanding, love, kindness, patience. In last evening’s Bible class, I mentioned how God used Monica’s witness and prayers to win both her son, Augustine, and her husband, Patricius, to Christ. Augustine wrote in his Confessions, “*She served him as her lord; and did her diligence to win him unto Thee ... preaching Thee unto him by her conversation [behavior]; by which Thou ornamentest her, making her reverently amiable unto her husband.*” In a Christian home, we must minister to each other. A Christian husband must minister to his wife and help to “beautify her” in the Lord (Eph. 5:25–30). A Christian wife must encourage her husband and help him grow strong in the Lord. Parents and children must share burdens and blessings and seek to maintain an atmosphere of spiritual excitement and growth in the home. If there are unsaved people in the home, they will be won to Christ more by what they see in our lives and relationships than by what they hear in our witness. (3) *Submission is an ornament (3:3–6)*. The word translated “adorning” is *kosmos* in the Greek, and gives us our English words “cosmos” (the ordered universe) and “cosmetic.” It is the opposite of chaos. Peter warned the Christian wife not to major on external decorations but on internal character. Roman women were captivated by the latest fashions of the day, and competed with each other in dress and hairdos. It was not unusual for the women to have elaborate coiffures, studded with gold and

silver combs and even jewels. They wore elaborate and expensive garments, all for the purpose of impressing each other. A Christian wife with an unsaved husband might think that she must imitate the world if she is going to win her mate; but just the opposite is true. Glamour is artificial and external; true beauty is real and internal. Glamour is something a person can put on and take off, but true beauty is always present. Glamour is corruptible; it decays and fades. True beauty from the heart grows more wonderful as the years pass. A Christian woman who cultivates the beauty of the inner person will not have to depend on cheap externals. God is concerned about values, not prices. Of course, this does not mean that a wife should neglect herself and not try to be up-to-date in her apparel. It simply means that she is not majoring on being a “fashion plate” just to “keep up with the crowd.” Any husband is proud of a wife who is attractive, but that beauty must come from the heart, not the store. We are not of this world, but we must not look as though we came from out of this world! Peter did not forbid the wearing of jewelry any more than the wearing of apparel. The word “wearing” in **1 Peter 3:3** means “the putting around,” and refers to a gaudy display of jewelry. It is possible to wear jewelry and still honor God, and we must not judge one another in this matter. Peter closed this section by pointing to Sarah as an example of a godly, submissive wife. Christian wives today would probably embarrass their husbands if they called them “lord,” but their attitudes ought to be such that they could call them “lord” and people would believe it. The believing wife who submits to Christ and to her husband, and who cultivates a “meek and quiet spirit” will never have to be afraid. God will watch over her even when her unsaved mate creates problems and difficulties for her.

Psalm 133:1–134:3. The imagery in **Psalm 133** is designed to depict unity. The image of brotherly unity is compared to oil that runs down Aaron’s beard. When the high priest was anointed, the oil ran down his beard to the front of his body and over his collar. This suggests that the oil “bathed” the twelve precious stones that he wore on the breastplate over his heart, and this “bathing” is a picture of spiritual unity. Unity of believers is God’s gift and a sacred duty. **Psalm 134** exhorts priests of the Temple to praise and bless God. In **134:3** we see the exaltation of God as Maker of Heaven and Earth. While it is easy to get distracted into thinking that life is all about us, it is important realize that this is God’s universe and we are privileged to be part of it. It really is not all about us! As the Word of God informs and reminds us, *Psalm 100:3 Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.*

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don